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## Guidelines for Cleanup/Restoration in NC Streams and Wetlands After a Natural Disaster/Catastrophic Event

Revised August 2020

The N.C. Division of Water Resources (DWR), in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), provides this guidance for sediment and debris removal from streams, channels, other drainageways and wetlands in the aftermath of a hurricane, tornado, flooding, tropical storm, or other natural disaster or catastrophic event.

1. Excavation of soil or sediment from streams, channels, other drainage ways and wetlands **requires approval**. Contact your local USACE and DWR Offices (contacts are provided at the end of this document).
2. Removal of debris is allowed. It shall be limited to the removal of vegetation and trash, construction and residential materials washed into a stream or wetlands. Uprooted stumps directly in the channel may be pulled from the ground (no excavation), but shall include no more than minimal amounts of soil attached to the roots. Debris removal is restricted to that associated with hurricanes, tornados, major flooding, tropical storms, or other natural disasters and catastrophic weather events.
3. Debris shall be disposed of on uplands where practicable (possible? feasible?). Debris placed in wetlands may require authorization; consult with DWR or USACE prior to placing debris into wetlands.
4. Equipment used may include hydraulic excavators equipped with a mechanical thumb or grapple attachment, loaders, winches mounted on equipment that has rubber tires or tracks, portable winches and chain saws.
5. Heavy equipment working in wetlands must be placed on mats, or other measures must be taken to minimize soil disturbance.
6. Equipment shall operate adjacent to the stream and not within the stream unless prior approval has been granted. Where necessary, trees may be cut for access to work sites. However, mechanized land clearing will not occur in wetlands at any time. Crossing a stream to access the opposite bank is permissible, but the crossing sites shall be selected to minimize damage to the streambank and aquatic habitat.



North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality | Division of Water Resources  
512 North Salisbury Street | 1617 Mail Service Center | Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1617  
919.707.9000

7. No activity may cause more than minimal adverse impact on navigation.
8. In the event of a spill of petroleum products or any other hazardous waste, immediately contact the North Carolina Emergency Management Center at (800) 858-0368. Management of such spills shall comply with provisions of the [North Carolina Oil Pollution and Hazardous Substances Control Act](#).
9. [State Riparian Buffer Rules](#) must be complied with when conducting storm debris removal.
10. The landowner, responsible party, and/or contractee will be responsible for inspection and will ensure that all of the previously listed conditions are met.
11. A representative of the Division of Water Resources will periodically inspect the work for compliance with these conditions and to ensure that water quality and wetland standards are not being violated. Deviations from these conditions or violations of water quality standards will likely result in the cessation of work until the problem is resolved.

### Division of Water Resources

Counties	Contact
Anson, Bladen, Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, Montgomery, Moore, Richmond, Sampson, Scotland	Fayetteville Regional Office 910-433-3300
Chatham, Durham, Edgecombe, Franklin, Granville, Halifax, Johnston, Lee, Nash, Northampton, Orange, Person, Vance, Wake, Warren, Wilson	Raleigh Regional Office 919-791-4200
Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Greene, Hertford, Hyde, Jones, Lenoir, Martin, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Tyrrell, Washington, Wayne	Washington Regional Office 252-946-6481
Brunswick, Carteret, Columbus, Duplin, New Hanover, Onslow, Pender	Wilmington Regional Office 910-796-7215
Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, & Yancey	Asheville Regional Office 828-296-4500

Alexander, Cabarrus, Catawba, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanly, & Union	Mooresville Regional Office 704-663-1699
Alamance, Alleghany, Ashe, Caswell, Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Guilford, Randolph, Rockingham, Stokes, Surry, Watauga, Wilkes, & Yadkin	Winston-Salem Regional Office 336-776-9800

### U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Counties	Contact
Alamance, Caswell, Chatham, Durham, Edgecombe, Franklin, Granville, Halifax, Johnston, Lee, Nash, Northampton, Orange, Person, Vance, Wake, Warren, Wilson	Raleigh Regulatory Field Office 919-554-4884
Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Greene, Hertford, Hyde, Jones, Lenoir, Martin, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Tyrell, Washington, Wayne	Washington Regulatory Field Office 910-251-4610
Bladen, Brunswick, Carteret Columbus, Cumberland, Duplin, Harnett, Hoke, Montgomery, Moore, New Hanover, Onslow, Pender, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland	Wilmington Regulatory Field Office 910-251-4633
Ashe, Alexander, Alleghany, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Mitchell, McDowell, Madison, Polk, Rutherford, Surry, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes, Yadkin, Yancey	Asheville Regulatory Field Office 828-271-7980
Anson, Cabarrus, Catawba, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanly, Union	Charlotte Regulatory Field Office <i>*Please use the Asheville Field Office contact until further notice</i>